

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
September 21, 2007
Sekiu Community Center
Sekiu, Washington

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, National Marine Sanctuary Program
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Reviewed by SAC Secretary

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent

Approved by SAC

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
September 21, 2007

Members Present:

Terrie Klinger, Research (Chair)
Katie Krueger, Quileute Tribe
Jim Woods, Makah Tribe
Bob Bohlman, Marine Industry (Vice Chair)
Steve Copps, National Marine Fisheries Serv.
Fan Tsao, Conservative Alternate
Teresa Scott, Wa. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
(Sec.)
Norm Davis, Washington Dept. of Ecology
Hayden Street, U.S. Navy
Steve Kee, US Coast Guard
Ellen Matheny, Education
Al Hightower, Commercial Fishing
Bob Morse, Citizen-at-Large
Roy Morris, Citizen-at-Large alt.
John Calambokidis, Research alt.

Staff

Carol Bernthal, Superintendent
Andy Palmer, Coordinator
George Galasso, Asst. Mgr.

Guests/Public Attendees:

Jennifer Hagen, NWIFC
Ed Bowen, public
Jody Kennedy, Surfrider Foundation
Jill Silver, Olympic Coast Alliance
Paul Blake, public
Gail Adams, public
Dottie Chamblin, public
Carolyn Winters, US Navy
Rich Melaas, US Navy
Sheila Murray, US Navy
Kimberly Kler, US Navy
Dan Hayes, US Navy

Welcome

Agenda/Meeting Minutes

Chair Terrie Klinger gaveled the meeting to order at 10:00 am. New Citizen-at-large alternate Roy Morris welcomed the advisory council and overview of the communities of Sekiu and Clallam Bay. Members and guest introduced themselves. Navy representative Hayden Street announced he would be leaving the AC after this meeting and introduced Dan Hayes, his replacement. No changes were proposed to the agenda. Jennifer Hagen requested a delay in approving the minutes until she had time to review her statement from the March meeting as reported in the minutes. This request was agreed to.

Internal Affairs

Chair Terrie Klinger announced that since Martha Hurd had retired from the AC, a new secretary was needed. Fan Tsao nominated Teresa Scott and the AC voted to approve her as the new secretary. Andrew Palmer reported that Bill Arntz submitted his resignation as the conservation/environmental representative due to health problems. In addition, the citizen-at-large seat and the tourism/chamber of commerce/recreation seat terms expire at the end of the year. The AC coordinator will be submitting a Federal Register notice to recruit new members and alternates for all three seats.

Management Plan Review Presentation (PowerPoint)*

George Galasso, OCNMS assistant manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the management plan review (MPR) process and the advisory council participation. He noted that the National Marine Sanctuary Act requires periodic updating of sanctuary

management plans. The sanctuary management plan is used to set program priorities and guides the program budgeting on an annual basis. A new feature is the national marine sanctuary program's emphasis on performance measures and action plans as part of the process and outcomes of management plan review. In order to help the AC better understand the actions plans and performance measures, he suggested that the west coast regional superintendent Bill Douros be invited to come to one of our meetings to talk about some of the recent management plans that have been adopted by other sites on the west coast. George reviewed some of the activities and briefings that have taken place over the last seven years to prepare ourselves for the MPR process. Some of the initial issue prioritization efforts by the staff will be part of the state of the sanctuary report that will be released to the public. The official process starts with the Federal Register notice of intent to prepare documents related to developing a new management plan review. One of the initial steps is to conduct scoping meetings around the peninsula and elsewhere to get input from the public on issues that the public feels should be addressed. After the scoping meetings, the AC and the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) will assist the sanctuary in prioritizing the issues and recommend which ones will be in the scope of the management plan review. Action plans addressing these issues will be developed by working groups and workshops, depending on the type of issues considered. Once the issues are determined, then the site will develop a draft environmental impact statement that will then go out for public review. Throughout this process the sanctuary staff will be conducting government-to-government consultations with the four coastal treaty tribes and using the IPC as appropriate to facilitate this. Discussion of the details of how this will take place and what role the IPC will define for itself are still to take place as the IPC is still in a formative stage. Members and staff discussed how the AC and IPC might interact to stay coordinated through out the MPR process. Terrie Klinger suggested that from now on the AC agenda include a regular update item for MPR as well as a slot for the IPC to report anything they wish to. Jim Woods, IPC chair, said that he would take this suggestion back to the IPC for consideration at the next meeting. George suggested that the AC create a scoping working group to assist in conducting the scoping meetings. **Fan Tsao moved that the AC create a scoping working group. Bob Morse seconded the motion. The AC approved the motion. The following members agreed to serve on the working group: Bob Bohlman, Ellen Matheny, Roy Morris, Fan Tsao, Jennifer Hagen, and Al Hightower.**

Citizen-at-large Member Report

Bob Morse reported on his experiences for the past six years as an alternate and member on the AC. He said that it takes a long time for a member to become effective because of the knowledge required. He found there wasn't an adequate job description for his position, so he decided to develop a training guide that describes the roles and duties of the citizen-at-large. The training guide also talks about the constituency for the seat and what tools are needed to become an effective member. Roy Morris related that having this document along with meeting with Bob has helped him feel more prepared to assume his seat on the council.

Public Comment

Dottie Chamblin explained the Makah relationship to the marine life in the sanctuary—that they are more than just stakeholders or stewards and that the tribe has a vital interest in what the sanctuary does.

Jennifer Hagen asked Carol Bernthal to clarify what she meant when she said that the basis of approach to the management plan is issue-based. Carol explained that issues include not only impacts to resources but other needs including the need to develop better information about the resources.

Ed Bowen spoke about the Lake Ozette sockeye salmon and the need to assess predation as a part of marine survivability. He also noted that there is a mercury contamination warning now for the lake.

Superintendent's Report

Carol Bernthal reported that research coordinator Ed Bowlby had given presentations on the OCNMS coral report at a recent meeting of the American Fisheries Society as well as at a special session at the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC). The environmental group Oceana submitted a letter to the council requesting emergency closures for new areas of coral found off the coast. Bob Morse asked if there was anything the AC could do to help this decision along. Steve Copps replied that at some point in the future there will be PFMC deliberation on the issue and the AC would be most welcome to weigh in then. Katie Kruger wanted to remind the AC that this is very preliminary information based upon a short research cruise and that they should be aware of this before taking any council action. Carol also reported that the PFMC habitat subcommittee is taking an interest in many of the ocean energy proposals that are being discussed. Carol gave an update on the Finavera (Aqua Energy) wave energy proposal for Makah Bay. The sanctuary has asked for detailed engineering plans for the installation and Finavera is preparing them. They don't expect to apply for a permit for at least a year. Several members commented on the large number of exploratory projects being proposed along the west coast. Carol summarized some of the field season early results. She also reported that the Ocean Literacy Project with the Seattle Aquarium has proceeded with teacher training in Seattle, and further teacher trainings are planned for coastal school districts. George Galasso reported that the attempt to recover the F/V Milky Way off La Push was not successful this year. Carol reported that the derelict fishing gear project with the Makah Tribe is moving ahead and an effort will be made to identify some new areas where derelict gear may be present.

U.S. Navy Northwest Training Range Complex Presentation (Powerpoint)*

Carolyn Winters from the Navy reported on status of the Northwest Training Range Complex Environmental Impact Statement (NWTREIS). Navy published in Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS on July 31, 2007. Public and agency scoping comments are due on September 29, 2007. The draft EIS is planned to be put out to the public for comment in early 2009 with a final EIS by mid 2009 and a decision document shortly thereafter. Public response to the scoping meetings has been disappointing with small turnout of members of the public. Katie Krueger noted that public scoping meetings were held in the Grays Harbor area, but none in the northern end of the coast where the range testing occurs and that hindered residents in the northern areas from attending meetings and making comments. Carol Winters explained that the purpose of the training ranges is to

give sailors a realistic training environment to learn their jobs. The EIS will consider a “no-action” alternative, alternative 1, an intermediate ramp-up of activities, and alternative 3, an even higher level of activities. Among activities considered that are proposed are unmanned aircraft flights, increased size of underwater detonations, increased number of training activities, and conducting electronic combat training. The Navy has listed potential environment issues that include acoustic impacts in the water, effects on threatened and endangered species, and the potential for water quality impacts from operations. Katie Krueger attended one of the scoping meetings and was disappointed that the experts present weren’t able to discuss a number of biological impacts she felt were important to consider. A number of advisory council members posed questions and made comments about whether it was necessary to conduct training activities within the sanctuary waters. John Calambokidis expressed that the tentative characterization of acoustic impacts in the notice did not do credit to the Navy’s acknowledgement that some acoustic impacts do have negative impacts on marine mammals. **Fan Tsao made a motion to submit a comment to request Navy that an alternative be considered that maintains the status quo of training activities within the sanctuary. The motion was seconded by Bob Morse.** After considerable discussion of the motion, the wording of the motion was reworked to state that *“The Sanctuary Council respectfully requests that the Navy perform a broader analysis of alternatives within the geographic area of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Specifically, we request that the Navy consider alternatives that would 1) maintain activity and equipment levels within the Sanctuary as specified in the Environmental Impact Statement pertaining to Sanctuary designation in 1994; and 2) maintain activity and equipment levels equivalent to those that existed in 2004. The Sanctuary Council further requests that the Navy address the 13 concerns that the Advisory Council submitted in response to public scoping for the Keyport Range expansion as articulated in a letter dated December 2, 2003 (enclosed). The same concerns apply to scoping for the Northwest Training Range Complex”*. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

Compatible Uses Discussion

Carol distributed a document summarizing how the national marine sanctuary program takes into account compatible uses of resources within a sanctuary. Uses must be compatible with the primary uses of the sanctuary. Carol noted that the Stillwagen Bank NMS advisory council, as part of their management plan review, had developed a document on compatible uses for their sanctuary which has a lot of useful information. Sanctuaries are multiple use entities whose primary goal is resource protection, but must allow other uses and activities that are compatible with that goal. These are reflected in the sanctuary regulations. One OCNMS regulation is a congressionally mandated prohibition – oil and gas exploration and development – essentially defining this activity as incompatible. Other regulations may prohibit activities, but these activities can be considered under certain circumstances if the use is deemed as compatible and supporting the goals of the OCNMS. Zoning is another way of defining compatible use – for example, the prohibition of low over flights over shorelines and islands. Jill Silver of Olympic Coast Alliance (OCA) gave a presentation of the work that OCA has done on compatible uses for the sanctuary. Using the work on compatibility that the Stillwagen

Bank NMS AC as a starting point, OCA developed a matrix of principles and objectives and a compatibility index for compatible uses within the OCNMS.

Public Comment

Ed Bowen thanked the AC for holding its meeting in Sekiu. Jennifer Hagen asked for clarification of the role that Olympic Coast Alliance plays and how that is differentiated from the role that the AC fills. Jill Silver responded that they are a group and independent citizens that have a broad range of interests as well as concerned about the health of the marine resources of the sanctuary. As a citizen group, they do not offer advice to the superintendent, but will comment on issues relating to sanctuary resources as the group deems necessary.

Meeting Comments/Future Agenda/Adjourn

Future meeting topics include:

- Having Bill Douros to come to talk about the regional approach and some of the issues other sanctuaries have faced during their management plan review process.
- Have a briefing by Washington Sea Grant on its efforts to define research needs and activities for the Washington coast.
- Continue with the compatible use discussion.
- Have standing agenda items for both the management plan review process and an IPC report by Jim Woods as appropriate.

*PowerPoint presentation posted on OCNMS web site (olympiccoast.noaa.gov)